The South 40

Tree farms pay well

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

How would you like to invest in a program that for 75 years has paid three to four percent over the inflation rate with average management? It's available to you if you own land.

Tree farming is a low risk activity contrary to what many people think. Only one percent of Virginia's forests suffer serious damage from fires, insects and disease. In Appomattox County, it's less than the state average. One of the major problems with tree farming is that tree planting and forest management returns are handicapped by the timing of money available to the owner. The long term involvement has been offset by recent tax breaks. For example, up to $10,000 a year in forest establishments costs may be used as a 10 percent tax credit and most of the rest amortized over 84 months. This could result in a reduction of your annual income taxes over a seven-year period. A number of cost sharing incentives also reduce initial costs.

Persons who own land can expect a long range profit from a planned forestry management program. The Virginia Division of Forestry, consultant foresters and some company foresters are available to assist.

A recent inventory of marginal land, pasture and cropland shows 600,000 acres of Virginia land suffer from heavy erosion. Proper planting can be important in conserving land and water resources.

In Appomattox County, about 70 percent of the land is in forest. The future could hold 20,000 to 40,000 board feet per acre stands of pine or quality hardwoods. Planting idle acres could grow one to one and one-quarter cords of pine pulpwood per acre. There can be a handsome profit over the long range, 20 to 35 years. In addition to the dollar return, there are other values involving water, wildlife and recreation.

There is so much available to you—don't pass up these opportunities.

Hunting season is here. One of the major concerns that most landowners have is for the hunter to have permission before hunting on private property.

While everyone has the right to hunt, the right to hunt on someone else's property is a privilege—extended only by the landowner.

A hunting license isn't a key to every landowner's gate. Use good manners—ask permission.

Tobacco plantbeds need to be fumigated with methyl bromide before cold weather arrives.

The best results occur when the soil temperature is 50 degrees or higher.

Diesel fuel reacts with zinc; therefore, never store it in galvanized tanks. Small powdery particles form in the fuel causing clogged filters when improper storage tanks are used. Another "no-no" is never use tanks that have been used for storing gasoline.

Store diesel fuel at least 40 feet from the nearest building, shade the tanks to reduce gum deposits and condensation. There are gum inhibitors on the market. If one is used, choose one that lasts at least three months.

A filter with a 25 to 50 micron porosity cartridge should be installed on the outlet side of the tank.

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Virginia Dark-Fired Tobacco Marketing Association is Friday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. at the New Randolph Warehouse, Farmville.

Chilton recalls days of land mismanagement

"If you think erosion and land mismanagement is bad now, you should have been here forty years ago," says Thomas A. Chilton, Rt. 3, Appomattox.

"When I finished high school here in 1937 at age 17, I'd seen enough mismanagement for a lifetime ... wheat too thin to cut, mature corn waist high, bare red clay with no cover crops, hogs kept until two years old to get large enough to kill. Few considered improving the soil; they tried to squeeze all they could out of the land without putting anything back. Many farmers, especially tenant farmers, bought seed and fertilizer on credit and stayed in debt," Chilton said.

"But I did observe a few farmers who made good crops. They were dedicated and took care of their land and their crops, while others planted their crops, went on to work somewhere else and hoped that the Lord would do the rest," Chilton recalls.

"Well, what brought you back to Appomattox and country living?" asks District Conservationist, Bob McClenny. Mr. Chilton explained that after nearly a five-year hitch in the Air Force during World War II, he moved to Philadelphia. He worked as a temporary employee with the U. S. Post Office and attended Temple University. After graduating with a degree in electronics, he worked for about 25 years for the Department of Defense.

After 40 years of city life, I felt cramped up and needed to grow things and live close to nature and I wanted to prove that the land would produce if given good management," he said.

"Well, you've put in terraces, alfalfa and other cover crops, and you are liming and fertilizing according to soil test, is the land producing?" McClenny asks. "I grow more sweet corn on a third of an acre than our folks did in the old days on several acres. With good land management we could nearly feed the world," Mr. Chilton noted.

From the looks of Mr. Chilton's garden it looks like he's proved that the land will produce and is doing his part to feed the world. "I sell what I can and give the rest away," Chilton concluded.

NORMAN GAGNEUR [left], representing the Oakville Ruritan Club, is shown presenting a check for $338 to Ray Noble, representing the Appomattox County Volunteer Rescue Squad. The money represents proceeds from a recent pancake supper the Ruritans had to raise money for the local lifesaving organization.

Ruritans make donation to county rescue squad

The Oakville Ruritans donated proceeds of $338.00 from their recent supper to Appomattox Rescue Squad. Ray Noble accepted a check for the squad and gave a history of the Appomattox Rescue Squad for the Oakville Ruritans at their November meeting.

The members enjoyed a meal prepared by some of the members, which was a new experience.

The slate of newly elected officers for 1985 are: President, Jack Goin; Vice-president, Bobby Harris; Secretary, Bill Harse; Treasurer, O.W. Martin, Jr.; and Reporter, Norman Gagneur.

Jack Goin and Bobby Harris will represent the club at the Appomattox District Convention.

Mr. Horace Coleman, zone governor, met with the Oakville Ruritans' board of directors at the November meeting to encourage attendance at zone meetings, as well as the district convention and new officer training meeting to be held Dec. 8 at Blackstone in the Methodist Center.

Plans were made to go to Floyd County and pick up Christmas trees on Dec. 8. The sale will begin at Farmers National Bank, Plaza Branch, that afternoon. All profits from the sale are used in the local area for needs of the coming year.

Schedule Of Vaccination For Dogs And Cats In Appomattox County
(Mandatory for dogs - Voluntary for cats)

Thursday, Nov. 15 - Three Locations
Appomattox Animal Hospital.............8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Guill's Market, Route 727............3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Old Oakville School Bldg...............5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 27 - One Location
Appomattox Animal Hospital.............9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 9 - Two Locations
Pamplin Fire House.......................12 noon - 1 p.m.
Jimmy's Grocery Store, Red House...1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26 - One Location
Appomattox Animal Hospital.............9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

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CHARLES SCRUGGS is pictured with a turnip weighing 2.55 pounds. "I've had lots of turnips approximately this size but never one quite so perfectly shaped," said Scruggs. He gardens every year, giving away what isn't consumed at home.

4-H Club News

Mrs. Mills

Mrs. Mills 4-H club had its second meeting of the year on Oct. 16, 1984. Our president, Gaylord Fleshman, called the meeting to order. We said the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the 4-H Pledge. Our recreation leaders, Greg McCormick and David Elder, led us in songs and games.

Mr. Sweet told us about the upcoming events, such as the Bike-a-Thon. Then the meeting was turned over to the vice president, Rodney Thompson. We talked about 4-H Share-the-Fun and Public Speaking.

The meeting was adjourned by the vice president.

Archie Irving
Reporter

Miss White

Miss White's 5th grade 4-H Club met on Oct. 18, 1984. The president, Robyn Jones, called the meeting to order. Sherri Evans led us in the pledge to the flag. Kim Newman led us in the 4-H pledge. The recreation leaders played Purple Magic and Artist in the Dark. The secretary, Shunta Booker, read the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Sweet gave out some Share-the-Fun forms. Then Mr. Sweet talked about 4-H projects from last year, the Bike-a-Thon which took place on Oct. 21, 1984, and 4-H Share-the-Fun.

The president turned the meeting over to the vice president, Lea Patterson, who reviewed what was said and thanked Mr. Sweet. Mr. Sweet then gave out the membership enrollments. He reminded us about the 4-H projects and Share-the-Fun.

The president then adjourned the meeting.

Stacey Pennix
Reporter

Miss Jamerson

Miss Jamerson's 4-H Club met on Oct. 17, 1984 at 1 p.m. The meeting was called to order by our president, Lorie O'Brien. Then we said the Pledge to the American flag led by Shelly Pankey. Next we said the Pledge to the 4-H flag led by Dwayne Lucado. We played the games Black Magic and King and Queen.

For old business we talked about the Bike-a-Thon which took place Oct. 21, 1984. Under new business we discussed the 4-H Horse and Pony Club. We also discussed the point system for the 4-H clubs. Mr. Sweet told us about Share-the-Fun which will be held in November.

Our program was choosing individual projects.

The meeting was then adjourned by the president.

Dwayne L. Lucado
Reporter

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